



Division of Medical Marijuana



**Medical Marijuana Program  
Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2020

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## Glossary

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Cardholder: A qualifying patient, designated caregiver, or compassion center agent who has been issued and possesses a valid registry identification card.

Compassion Center: A manufacturing facility or dispensary.

Designated Caregiver: An individual who agrees to manage the well-being of a registered qualifying patient with respect to the qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana.

Dispensary: An entity registered by the department as a compassion center authorized to dispense usable marijuana to a registered qualifying patient and a registered designated caregiver.

Health Care Provider: A physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse.

Manufacturing Facility: An entity registered by the department as a compassion center authorized to produce and process and to sell usable marijuana to a dispensary.

Qualifying Patient: An individual who has been diagnosed by a health care provider as having a debilitating medical condition.

Registry Identification Card: A document issued by the department which identifies an individual as a registered qualifying patient, registered designated caregiver, or registered compassion center agent.

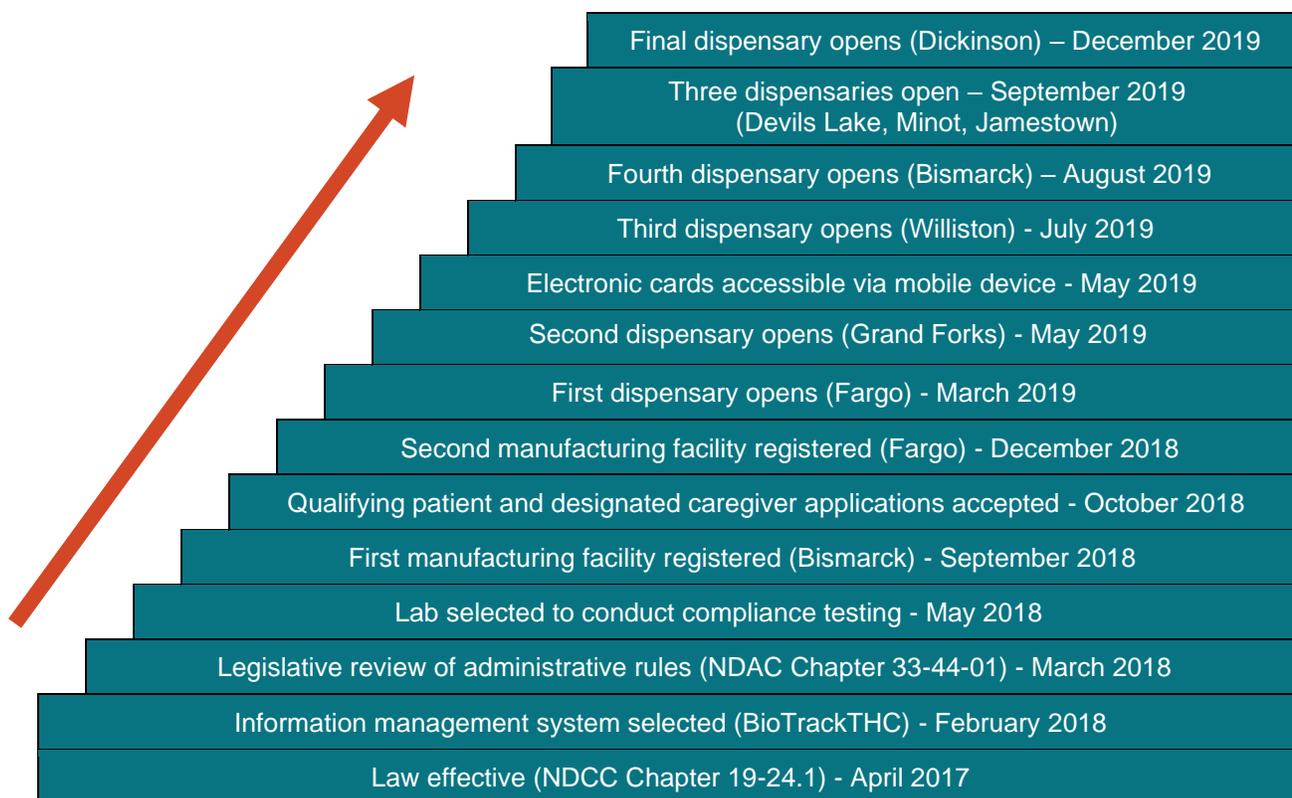
Usable Marijuana: A medical marijuana product or the dried leaves or flowers of the plant of the genus cannabis in a combustible delivery form. However, the term does not include a cannabinoid edible product. In the case of a registered qualifying patient who is a minor, "usable marijuana" is limited to pediatric medical marijuana.

Written Certification: A form established by the department which is executed, dated, and signed by a health care provider within ninety calendar days of the day of application, stating that the patient has a debilitating medical condition. A health care provider may authorize an enhanced amount of dried leaves or flowers of the plant of the genus cannabis in a combustible delivery form to treat or alleviate the patient's debilitating medical condition of cancer. A written certification may not be made except in the course of a bona fide provider-patient relationship.

## Background Information and Status of the Program

In November 2016, an initiated measure, known as the “North Dakota Compassionate Care Act,” was approved by voters. In January 2017, the provisions of the North Dakota Compassionate Care Act were suspended through legislation passed by the Legislative Assembly. On April 18, 2017, a new state law became effective requiring the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) to establish and implement a Medical Marijuana Program allowing for the production and processing, the sale and dispensing of usable marijuana, and medical use of marijuana. Since the effective date of the new state law, the NDDoH has been committed to implementing a well-regulated program that would protect the health and safety of qualifying patients and the public.

The chart below provides information related to the major steps in implementing the program:



State law requires the NDDoH to register no more than two manufacturing facilities unless the NDDoH determines additional entities are necessary to increase access to usable marijuana by registered qualifying patients and registered designated caregivers. Two manufacturing facilities received their registration certificates in fiscal year 2019. One manufacturing facility, Pure Dakota LLC, is in Bismarck. One manufacturing facility, Grassroots Cannabis (legal name: GR Vending ND, LLC), is in Fargo.

State law identifies the NDDoH is to register no more than eight dispensaries unless the NDDoH determines additional entities are necessary to increase access to usable marijuana by registered qualifying patients and registered designated caregivers. The NDDoH established eight regions

within the state where dispensaries would be located. Regions are comprised of a 50-mile radius from selected cities. Two dispensaries received their registration certificates in fiscal year 2019; the Botanist in Fargo and Strive Life in Grand Forks. On April 3, 2020, the dispensary located in Fargo closed temporarily. New ownership, Pure Dakota Health, re-opened the store on May 19. The remaining six dispensaries were opened during fiscal year 2020. The six dispensary names and locations follow:

- Harvest of Williston
- Harvest of Bismarck
- Herbology in Devils Lake
- Herbology in Minot
- Herbology in Jamestown
- Herbology in Dickinson

An online application process is used for registering qualifying patients and designated caregivers. During fiscal year 2020, a significant increase in registered qualifying patients occurred. As of June 30, 2019, there were approximately 700 registered qualifying patients. As of June 30, 2020, there were approximately 3,200 registered qualifying patients.

## State Law Reporting Requirements

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NDCC Section 19-24.1-39 requires the NDDoH to submit an annual report that contains the following information:

1. The number of registry identification card applications and renewals;
2. The number of registered qualifying patients and registered designated caregivers;
3. The nature of the debilitating medical conditions of the registered qualifying patients;
4. The number of registry identification cards revoked;
5. The number of health care providers providing written certifications for qualifying patients;
6. The number of compassionate care centers; and
7. Any expenses incurred and revenues generated by the department from the medical marijuana program.

Data is reported as of June 30, 2020.

## APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS

Individuals applying to become registered qualifying patient, designated caregiver, or agent submit their application through the North Dakota Medical Marijuana Program online registration system. The table below identifies new applications and renewal applications submitted during fiscal year 2020. As identified in the table below, most applications submitted were from new patients. Data from the Medical Marijuana Program online registration system.

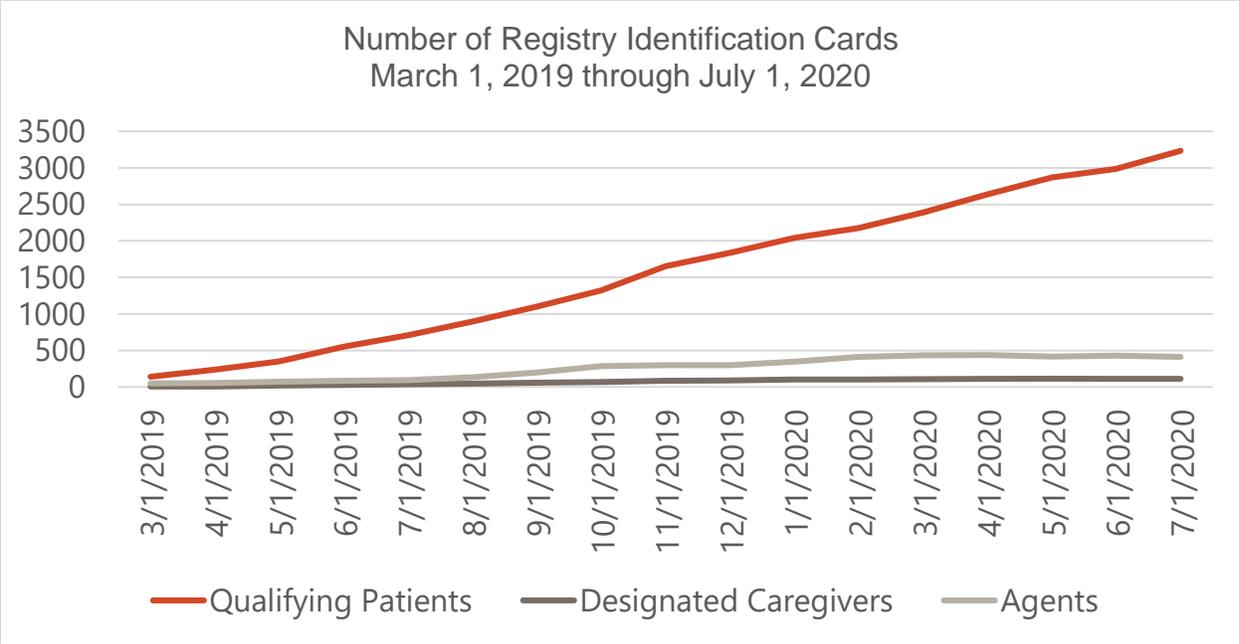
Applications Submitted			
	Patients	Caregivers	Agents
New	2,985	115	444
Renewal	536	21	72

## REGISTERED QUALIFYING PATIENTS AND DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS

An individual may possess more than one designated caregiver registry identification card (state law allows an individual to possess up to five designated caregiver cards). Also, individuals may be considered an agent of multiple registered manufacturing facilities/dispensaries. Thus, card numbers may not be reflective of the actual number of individuals with a registry identification card. The total number of registry identification cards as of June 30, 2019 and 2020 was (data from the Medical Marijuana Program online registration system):

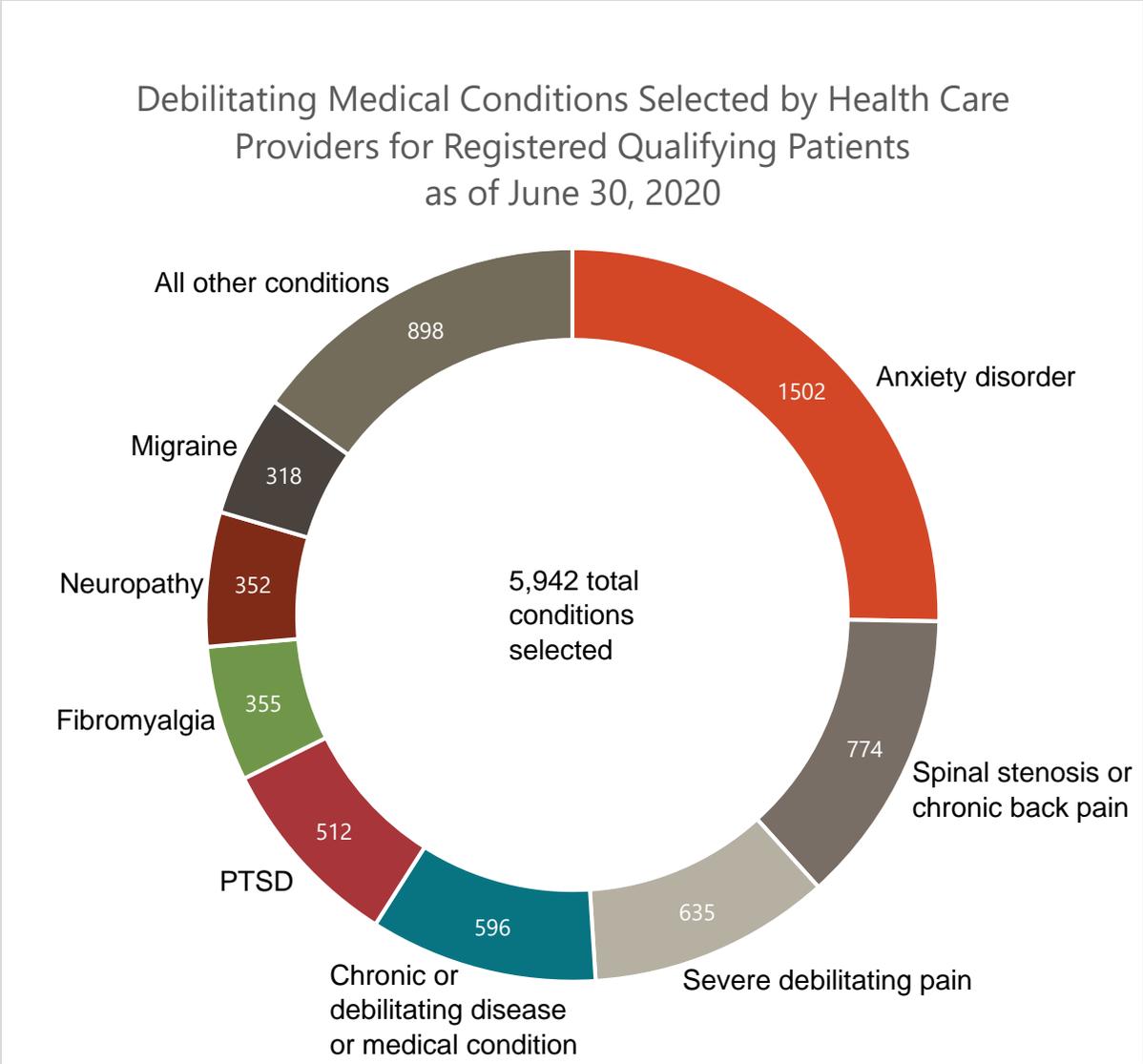
Fiscal Year End Registry Identification Card Data		
	6/30/2019	6/30/2020
Qualifying patients	707	3,233
Designated caregivers	34	109
Compassion center agents	91	410

The chart on the following page identifies information related to the number of registry identification cards active in the Medical Marijuana Program since the first day a dispensary was open in the state. As seen by the graph, the number of registered qualifying patients increased significantly from March 1, 2019 to July 1, 2020 (data from the Medical Marijuana Program online registration system).



**DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

A qualifying patient application requires a health care provider to complete a written certification. A health care provider must select at least one of the debilitating medical conditions authorized in state law. A health care provider may select more than one debilitating medical condition on a written certification (thus, the total number of conditions exceeds the registered qualifying patient data). The graph on the following page identifies the medical conditions selected by health care providers for 3,233 registered qualifying patients as of June 30, 2020 (data from the Medical Marijuana Program online registration system). As the graph identifies, the top two conditions selected were anxiety disorder and spinal stenosis or chronic back pain. The entire list of debilitating medical conditions can be seen in Appendix A.



**REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS REVOKED**

One qualifying patient registry identification card was revoked in fiscal year 2020.

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS PROVIDING WRITTEN CERTIFICATIONS**

There were 275 health care providers who completed written certifications for registered qualifying patients as of June 30, 2020. A breakdown of the 275 health care providers follows (data from the Medical Marijuana Program online registration system):

- 61% Physicians
- 32% Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- 7% Physician Assistants

House Bill 1283 of the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly established a reasonable accommodation for veterans receiving treatment from a federal veterans' affairs (VA) entity. The accommodation was added to the qualifying patient application process. In lieu of a written certification, a veteran may be eligible to submit their medical records and a copy of their military discharge papers to the division. As of June 30, 2020, 190 registered qualifying patients were veterans who had used the reasonable accommodation.

## COMPASSIONATE CARE CENTERS

Two manufacturing facilities

Eight dispensaries

## DIVISION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA EXPENSES AND REVENUE

Expenditures*			
(by Fiscal Year)			
	2018	2019	2020
Salaries and Wages	\$269,289	\$364,530	\$443,012
Operating	\$94,137	\$358,220	\$153,498
Total Expenses	\$363,426	\$722,750	\$596,510
General Funds	\$345,651	\$331,413	
Special Funds	\$17,775	\$391,337	\$596,510

Revenue*			
(by Fiscal Year)			
	2018	2019	2020
Medical Marijuana Fees	\$95,000	\$928,300	\$743,415

\* Expenditure and revenue data obtained from the state's accounting information system.

## Appendix A

### Debilitating Medical Conditions Selected by Health Care Providers for Registered Qualifying Patients as of June 30, 2020

Debilitating Medical Condition	Times Selected <sup>+</sup>
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	^
Agitation of Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia	^
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	^
Anorexia nervosa*	^
Anxiety disorder*	1,502
Autism spectrum disorder*	14
Brain injury*	44
Bulimia nervosa*	^
Cancer	255
Crohn's disease	47
Decompensated cirrhosis caused by Hepatitis C	^
Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome*	16
Endometriosis*	43
Epilepsy	45
Fibromyalgia	355
Glaucoma	23
Interstitial Cystitis*	^
Migraine*	318
Neuropathy*	352
Positive status for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	^
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	512
Rheumatoid arthritis*	99
Spinal stenosis or chronic back pain, including neuropathy or damage to the nervous tissue of spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity	774
Terminal illness	53
Tourette Syndrome*	^
A chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or treatment for such disease or medical condition that produces one or more of the following:	596
• Cachexia or wasting syndrome	32
• Severe debilitating pain that has not responded to previously prescribed medication or surgical measures	635
• Intractable nausea	34
• Seizures	33
• Severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of Multiple Sclerosis	115
Total Conditions Selected: 5,942	

<sup>+</sup> Data from the Medical Marijuana Program online registration system (data as of June 30, 2020)

<sup>^</sup> Ten or less

\* Condition added to state law effective April 24, 2019



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